
Abstract**A Morphosyntactic Approach to Word Order
and the Null Subject Construction in Old English****KOBAYASHI Shigeyuki**

The Null Subject Phenomenon has been intensively investigated in theoretical linguistics, especially within the framework of Generative Grammar. Languages are linguistic-typologically classified into two types based on the criterion of whether null subjects are allowed.

Italian is a typical consistently null subject language, contrary to Modern English as a typical consistently non-null subject language. This distinction has been recognized as a notable example of a linguistic parameters in P & P theory since the 1980's, whereby it is posited that parameters should have binary values—positive or negative.

The null-subject parameter of Old English had been analysed as a negative value in main stream diachronic syntactic studies because null-subject can be allowed in only morphologically rich languages. Such theories of the null-subject parameter as relating to morphology have recently been challenged and reconsidered in recent studies.

The aim of this study is to reconsider the value of the null-subject parameter based on data of the Old English psalms. Some Old English psalms contain interlinear Old English translations of the original Latin version, which have not been considered in studies of syntactic change because the original Latin syntax was considered to be reflected in the Old English translations. As the study of the syntax of Old Germanic languages has developed, it has been found that Old Germanic languages are partially null-subject languages, including Old English, which can be verified by the data of the Old English psalms.